

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings.

2. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein said at least two spaced apart surfaces of said primary storage container comprises two spaced apart oppositely disposed surfaces provided in a solid material to form enclosed slots passing through said solid material between respective aligned openings in said two spaced apart surfaces of said primary storage container.

3. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein said at least two spaced apart surfaces of said primary storage container comprises two surfaces separated by a void area.

4. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the openings of said primary storage container is in alignment with at least one of the openings in said secondary storage container.

5. (Original) The expandable storage holder accordingly to claim 1, wherein said primary storage container has a front, rear and lateral sides and wherein said secondary storage container extends out from one of said lateral sides of the primary storage container in a horizontal direction.

6. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings;

~~The expandable storage holder accordingly to claim 5,~~

wherein said secondary storage container includes legs that allow said secondary storage container to be moved outwardly from said primary storage container along a generally horizontal plane;

wherein said primary storage container has a front, rear and lateral sides and wherein said secondary storage container extends out from one of said lateral sides of the primary storage container in a horizontal direction.

7. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

_____ a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

_____ a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

_____ said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

_____ said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings,

~~The expandable storage holder according to claim 1,~~

wherein at least one surface of said secondary storage container has an interlocking structure that is guided by a mating interlocking structure on said primary storage container.

8. (Currently Amended.) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

_____ a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

_____ a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

_____ said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

_____ said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an

implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings.

~~The expandable storage holder according to claim 7~~

wherein said interlocking structure on said second storage container comprises a groove to facilitate the sliding of the secondary storage container within the primary storage container,

wherein the secondary storage container includes at least one ridge aligned to fit within a groove of the primary storage container,

wherein said interlocking structure includes serrations to provide a plurality of discrete positions of movement of said secondary storage container with respect to said primary storage container,

wherein at least one surface of said secondary storage container has an interlocking structure that is guided by a mating interlocking structure on said primary storage container.

9. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 7 wherein the secondary storage container includes at least one ridge aligned to fit within a grove of the primary storage container.

10. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 7 wherein said interlocking structure includes serrations to provide a plurality of discrete positions of movement of said secondary storage container with respect to said primary storage container.

11. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings;

~~The expandable storage holder according to claim 1~~

further comprising a tertiary storage container that is sized to be slidable within at least a portion of the secondary storage container, so that said tertiary storage container is telescopically nested within said secondary storage container.

12. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings;

~~The expandable storage holder according to claim 1~~

wherein the primary storage container and secondary storage containers are inclined at an angle with respect to the horizontal so that the upper portion of the primary storage container faces a user.

13. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein said storage holder is enclosed on the bottom so as to prevent the tips of knife blades from scratching an outer surface on which the storage holder rests.

14. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

a secondary storage container having at least two spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having a plurality of aligned openings formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably received within said primary storage container between a nested position wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container and an extended position wherein said secondary storage container extends outwardly from said primary storage container,

said openings in said at least two surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least two surfaces of said secondary storage container being oriented such that an implement inserted into said expandable storage holder passes through at least two spaced apart openings,

~~The expandable storage holder according to claim 12,~~

~~wherein the angle of inclination ranges from approximately 30 to 50 degrees,~~

wherein the primary storage container and secondary storage containers are included at an angle with respect to the horizontal so that the upper portion of the primary storage container faces a user.

15. (Original) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein the secondary storage container is slidable horizontally within the primary storage container.

16. (Currently Amended) The expandable storage holder according to claim 1, wherein the secondary storage container is slidably vertically within the primary storage container.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an expandable storage holder, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first a primary storage container having a series of openings arranged in an upper portion;

(b) arranging a secondary storage container to interfit telescoping at least partly within the primary storage container;

(c) providing the secondary storage container with a series of openings arranged in an upper portion;

(d) sizing the secondary storage container to be slidable within at least a portion of the primary storage container.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
providing the openings in the secondary storage container such that at least one of the openings is aligned with an opening of the primary storage container.

19. (Currently Amended) An expandable storage holder for storing implements inserted therein, comprising:

a primary storage container having spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having at least one opening formed therein,

a secondary storage container having spaced apart surfaces, each of said surfaces having at least one opening formed therein,

said secondary storage container being movably with respect to said primary storage container between a first position wherein said secondary storage container is at least partially located within said primary storage container and a second position wherein said secondary storage container is displaced outwardly from said primary storage container,

said at least one opening in said surfaces of said primary storage container and said at least one opening in said surfaces of said secondary storage container being in alignment when said secondary storage container is in said second position.

20. (Currently Amended) The expandable storage holder as defined in claim 19 wherein said secondary storage container is at least substantially located within said primary storage container when said second storage container is in said first position.